THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) and (b) Unreserved tickets are issued for a particular destination and are valid for travel for the entire day on the date of journey. Unreserved tickets are not issued for a particular train and thus, it is not possible to link it to the carrying capacity of a train.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Hike in freight tariff

1741. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent hike in freight tariff effected by railways will bring inadequate revenue to offset the effect of hike in diesel prices and other operational costs;

'(b) whether the railways is facing stiff competition from private transport sector, which has snatched away a large share of railway freight business, and

(c) whether because of high density of passenger/express/mail traffic on trunk routes, the freight train movement is severely curtailed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The recent hike in freight tariff for a few commodities will partially offset the effect of hike in diesel prices and other operational costs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Passenger earnings

1742. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger earnings fell short of Budget Estimates and the revised estimates for the year ending 31st March, 2004;

(b) whether the downward revision of Budget Estimates for passenger fare . earnings for 2003-04 was on account of estimated shortfall in upper class passenger earning targets caused by stiff competition from airlines; and

(c) whether in view of the stiff competition faced from airlines, the railways would rationalize the upper class fares in the coming budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, the downward revision was done in view of the trend of shortfall in the overall passenger earnings to end of November, 2003.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Recruitment and Promotions in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. Dubri

1743. DR. RADHAKANT NAYAK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation in favour of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as provided in the Constitution in favour of SCs and STs is being implemented in recruitment and promotions in Neelachal Ispat Nigam Ltd. Dubri, in the district of Jajpur, Orissa;

(b) whether rosters are also being properly maintained for the purpose;

(c) if so, the number of persons of all categories recruited and promoted in Neelachal Ispat Nigam, category-wise, during the last three years and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst them; and

(d) the reasons for the shortfall in the number of SCs and STs and the steps taken to fill up the quota reserved for them?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The company is not implementing the reservation policy in respect of SC/STs, as it is not a Government company. However, category-wise details of SC/ST employees in relation to total employee strength in Neelanchal Ispat Nigam Ltd. (NINL) as on date is given below:-

Category	Total Employees	Of which		(Number) Total	%'of Total
		SC	ST		
D	116	9	64	73	62.93
C	715	6	21	27	3.77
B&A	273	2	NIL	2	0.73

(d) It has been informed by NINL that it is not a Government company